

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 L-03 EUR-25 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

/105 W

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R 091014Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4619

SECDEF WASHDC

SECAIR FORCE WASHDC

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 3390

SECDEF FOR ISA

SECAIR FORCE FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, SA

SUBJ: SULTAN STILL LOOKING FOR HELP WITH DISPOSAL F-86'S

REF: A. JIDDA 3104 (NOTAL)

B. JIDDA 3233 (NOTAL)

1. WE SPOKE TOO SOON (REF A) WHEN INDICATING SULTAN HAD ACCEPTED OUR POSITION THAT WE UNABLE PROVIDE SOME SUITABLE METHOD FOR DISPOSING OF F-86 AND T-33 AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN SIMPLY DESTRUCTION HERE.

2. AT MEETING WITH HIM AUGUST 5 PRINCE UNDERTOOK LENGTHY HARANGUE TO IMPRESS ME WITH URGENCY AND RELEVANCE REQUIREMENT THAT PLANES BE EITHER, (A) GIVEN OR SOLD TO ANOTHER COUNTRY THAT COULD USE THEM (PAKISTAN BEING PARTICULARLY LOGICAL RECIPIENT); (B) OR USG OR MANUFACTURER OF AIRCRAFT SHOULD BUY THEM BACK; (C) OR SULTAN WOULD BE HAPPY IF US WOULD JUST HAUL THEM AWAY.

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3. SULTAN SAID HE HAD NOT YET INFORMED KING ABOUT OUR

RESPONSE (REF B). HE CITED, NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY, EXAMPLES OF HELPFUL STEPS BY OTHER GOVTS, PARTICULARLY BRITISH, TO TAKE BACK OVER-AGE HARDWARE. SULTAN'S ARGUMENTS BECAME LESS PERSUASIVE AS HE WENT ON--CITING SUPPOSED INTENSE INDIGNATION AMONG YOUNGER OFFICERS OF RSAF IF USG FAILED PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT IN THIS CASE.

4. IN RESPONSE TOLD PRINCE I HAD MADE INTENSIVE EFFORT OVER MANY MONTHS, INCLUDING PERSONAL LETTERS TO SENIOR DOD OFFICERS, TO FIND SOME USEFUL PURPOSE FOR PLANES. FUNDAMENTAL DIFFICULTY REMAINED: F-86 IS OVER-AGE AND OBSOLETE AND NOBODY WANTS IT ANYMORE. I SUGGESTED IT IS TIME FOR SAUDI DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT ACCEPT GENERAL CONCEPTS OF INEVITABLE LIFE CYCLE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT: IT IS INTRODUCED, UTILIZED, AND THEN PUT ASIDE OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF WHEN IT BECOMES OBSOLETE. USG HAS FIELDS FILLED WITH ANCIENT AIRCRAFT STACKED TOGETHER. SAID I REALIZED THIS MIGHT BE NEW IDEA FOR SAUDI ARMED FORCES, WHICH HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED SO MANY SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF MILITARY GEAR. NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS SOMETHING TO WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED, SINCE IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT A PART OF SUPPLY PROCEDURE AS INITIAL ACQUISITION. I WONDERED IF MODA SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH REGULAR SURVEY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSING OF OLD MATERIEL. THIS COULD HELP AS FORM OF ORDERLY PROCESS FOR EASING OUT OBSOLESCEENT ITEMS. PLANES MIGHT BE PLACED IN MUSEUMS, IN TOWN SQUARES, OR SHOT UP AS TARGETS. AS FOR DELIVERY TO PAKISTAN, I REMINDED HIM AGAIN THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT APPROVE TRANSFER OF AIR FRAMES OR ARMAMENTS, WE WERE QUITE WILLING TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR DELIVERY FULL LINE OF SPARE PARTS.

5. SULTAN WOULD NOT GIVE UP AND WENT BACK THROUGH HIS INITIAL ARGUMENTS AGAIN WITH A FEW EXTRA TWISTS, AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED BACK AND FORTH FOR SOME TIME. AT END I MADE POINT QUITE FIRMLY I COULD GIVE HRH NO HOPE WE COULD HELP HIM.

6. COMMENT: WE JUDGE THIS AS SITUATION WHERE SULTAN HAS AGAIN MADE AN UNWISE OR HASTY PROMISE TO SATISFY SOME PRECONCEIVED NOTION ON PART OF KING AS TO HOW PHASING OUT OF F-86 AND T-33 SHOULD BE HANDLED. HE IS NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT IT, BUT THERE SEEMS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LET HIS STEW ON THIS

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ONE. IF HE RAISES IT AGAIN, I WILL TRY ONCE MORE PERSUADE HIM THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO.
THACHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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